Misuse of fund for rehabilitation of bonded labourers in Deoghar, Bihar

332. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the amount of rupees twelve lakhs sanctioned for rehabilitation of bonded labourers in the Deoghar district of Bihar was used in purchasing cows which were all old and dry and that too at a very high rate and most of those cows supplied to the bonded labourers have died; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to hold an enquiry into the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Modernisation of Jute Industry

333. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have decided to advance money for the modernisation of jute industry; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) and (b) The Jute Industry is entitled to get loan for modernisation under the Soft Loan Scheme of the financial institutions. The Government have not recently taken any decision to advance money separately for the modernisation of jute industry.

Recovery of loans given to the Jute Industry for Modernisation

334. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large sum of money was advanced for modernisation of jute industry several years back;

(b) if so, to whom the money was given; what was the amount and how much out of that amount has since been recovered;

(c) what amount is still in arrears and the parties from whom it is to be recovered; and

(d) what steps been taken for the recovery of the amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Provident fund outstanding against jute mill owners in West Bengal

335. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact a number of jute mill owners in West Bengal have not deposited the Provident Fund money collected from the workers; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir, 31 Jute Mills (29 exempted and 2 unexempted) were in default in payment of EPF dues (including employees' share of contribution) as on 31-3-1986.

(b) The EPF authorities have filed cases under the EPF Act against 17 establishments, and complaints under section 406/409 IPC against 12 establishments. However, in most of the cases, the jute mills have obtained stay orders from the High Courts. Some of these establishments have also obtained orders from the Court for payment of outstanding dues in monthly instalments spread over a long period. In view of these developments, the question of recovery of

outstanding dues was recently discussed with the representatives of some of the major defaulting Jute Mills and it was decided *inter alia* that:—

(i) The Jute Mills will be regular in payment of current dues from the month of July, 1986, onwards;

(ii) A deduction of 8 per cent will be made from the amount payable to jute mills on all purchase orders on Government accout and the amount so realised will be adjusted against outstanding dues for the period prior to July, 1986.

Criticism by various Employees' Organisations of the Fourth Central Pay Commission Report

336. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of organisations of the Central Government employees have criticised the Fourth Pay Commission Report; and

(b) whether Government propose to take these criticisms into consideration while determining its attitude towards this Report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) and (b) An Empowered Committee of Secretaries with Finance Secretary as Chairman has been constituted to consider and process the recommendations of the Pay Commission. Besides, an Implementation Cell headed by an Additional Secretary has been set up in the Ministry of Finance to examine and process the recommendations of the Pay Commission. A Cell has also been set-up in the Department of Personnel and Training for the same purpose.

The Empowered Committee/Implementation Cell will, no doubt, consider the submissions made by the representatives of the Staff Side in the National Council of J. C. M.

337. (Transferred to the 24th July, 1986).

Export of cotton

338. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total export of cotton during the current year in terms of quantity and value;

(b) what is the estimated production of cotton in the current year; carry forward stocks of last year; estimated consumption in the country and expected carry forward for the next year;

(c) how much cotton has been exported from Gujarat so far during the current year; what is the current stock position and expected disposal;

(d) whether it is a fact that fairly good crop of cotton in the current year has brought down the prices of cotton causing hardships to the farmers; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) whether his Ministry has worked out its policy in advance for the coming crop to enthuse farmers for sustaining higher level of production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) The total registration, shipment and value of exports of long staple and Bangal deshi cotton during the current cotton year beginning from 1st September, 1985 till 11th July, 1986 are given below:—